
In This Issue

Update on Transition to the New Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

NERC 2010 Semi-Annual CIP Self-Certification and Supplemental Questions

Technical Feasibility Exception Submittal Deadline

NERC Load Serving Entity Registration Update – Coordinated Functional Registration

BAL-001-TRE-01 Status Update

RSC Update

2010 Audit Schedule

The Texas Regional Entity 2010 Audit Schedule is now available (subject to change).

[View the 2010 Texas Regional Entity Audit Schedule on our Web site.](#)

Texas RE News

Update on Transition to the New Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.

Texas Regional Entity (“Original Texas RE”) is legally separating from ERCOT. The new and independent Regional Entity will be Texas *Reliability* Entity, Inc. or “New Texas RE.” Original Texas RE will continue to perform Regional Entity activities until after FERC approves a new Delegation Agreement between NERC and New Texas RE.

Implementation Timeline (Leading to New Texas RE performing Regional Entity activities):

- NERC Board of Trustees will vote to approve new Delegation Agreement ~Late February
- NERC will submit proposed new Delegation Agreement to FERC ~Late February
- FERC will approve New Texas RE Delegation Agreement and Budget ~Early May
- Employees and assets will transfer to New Texas RE within 60 days after FERC approves Delegation Agreement
 - New Texas RE performs as Regional Entity ~July 1st (“Implementation”)

Membership Activities Timeline:

New Texas RE was formed on January 1st to begin the transition. A number of Membership Activities will occur before New Texas RE becomes the Regional Entity:

- Registered Entities may join New Texas RE as members to vote on Bylaws and Independent Directors and to participate in the Member Representatives Committee
 - Membership Application became available January 13th
 - Membership vote on Bylaws on February 5th
- Membership must approve at least 3 Independent Directors before Implementation
- Membership may begin Sector activities to elect Member Representatives Committee (MRC) and Reliability Standards Committee (RSC) representatives prior to Implementation
 - The chair and vice chair of MRC are also voting board directors

Texas RE News (continued)

NERC 2010 Semi-Annual CIP Self-Certification and Supplemental Questions

Self-certification forms for CIP standards, CIP-002 through CIP-009, and CIP supplemental questions (survey) were posted on the Texas RE Portal on January 1st. The Self-Certification forms and survey are due on February 1st. Notices have been sent to applicable entities' Primary Compliance Contacts (PCC) and Master Account Administrators (MAA).

Generator Owner (GO), Generator Operator (GOP) and Transmission Owner (TO) entities will be responsible for submittal of the CIP-002 through CIP-009 standards Self-Certification.

CIP supplemental questions apply to entities registered as Reliability Coordinator (RC), Balancing Authority (BA), Transmission Operator (TOP), Generator Owner (GO), Generator Operator (GOP) and Transmission Owner (TO).

NERC requires the CIP supplemental questions to "gain the perspective needed to inform NERC's ongoing cyber security standards development efforts, plan educational outreach, and determine next steps for NERC's other cyber security and critical infrastructure protection activities."

The supplemental questions have been revised to 1) direct many of the questions to the Owner rather than Operator, 2) collect additional detail regarding the number of Critical Assets that have associated Critical Cyber Assets, 3) separate black start cranking path questions from black start units, and 4) target the Control Center questions to BA, GOP, RC, TOP, and TO functions only. The instructions included as Attachment 1 include instructions concerning facilities that are owned by multiple entities to avoid double-counting.

Please note that, per NERC CMEP, regardless of whether an entity has been audited or is scheduled to undergo a compliance audit in 2010, all responsible registered entities are *required to participate in this semi-annual CIP self-certification process*.

Please be advised that:

- The NERC Reliability Standards self-certification submissions to Texas RE are mandatory.
- Texas RE staff may conduct random spot checks on any of the compliance self-certification submittals.
- Evidence of compliance must be retained to support the self-certification, including any follow-up investigation, at least until the next scheduled audit or until NERC or Texas RE advises otherwise.

Please send all of your questions on CIP self-certification and CIP supplemental questions to selfcert@texasre.org.

Technical Feasibility Exception Submittal Deadline

Texas RE has received several inquiries regarding extending the January 31st deadline for filing Technical Feasibility Exceptions (TFEs) for the 12 applicable/original CIP requirements.

No extensions have been granted by NERC or Texas RE. The deadline for submittal of the TFEs was January 31st. The TFEs were to be created and submitted in the Texas RE Portal by the deadline (January 31st). Please note, the submission "Due Date" on the Portal only refers to the application due date and does not supersede the deadline (January 31st).

Proposed Upcoming Changes to the Interim TFE Program:

In response to a FERC order, NERC has proposed that responsible entities may be able to submit TFEs under CIP-006-1 R1.1 and CIP-007-1 R3 (or CIP-006-2 R1.1 and CIP-007-2 R3, after April 1st). NERC has suggested a start date February 17th for Portal submission and a deadline of April 30th for these new TFE submittals. Texas RE will be updating the Portal to accommodate these requirements.

[View FERC Order.](#)

Please send all of your questions on TFE submittals to cybersec@texasre.org.

Texas RE News (continued)

NERC Load Serving Entity Registration Update – Coordinated Functional Registration

Texas RE is in the process of registering all entities responsible for NERC Load Serving Entity (LSE) standards based on the agreed Jointly Registered Organization language negotiated by the stakeholders.

Please send all of your questions on LSE registration to nercregistration@texasre.org.

Standards Drafting Update

BAL-001-TRE-01 Status Update

The BAL-001-TRE-01 draft regional standard will likely be posted for a second round of comments in February 2010. The RSC met in January and was presented with a summary of the changes reflected in the current draft, which were made by the drafting team in response to the earlier round of comments.

Proposed revisions to the draft standard include a reduction in the number of glossary definitions from 13 to three, removal of Generator Operator (GOP) applicability, and exemption of existing Nuclear Generating Facilities. Several requirements were combined or deleted for clarity. The attachments were also revised in accordance with comments received and revisions to the draft standard.

Assuming the RSC approves posting the revised draft standard for another round of comments in February, and there are no major changes necessitated by additional comments, the goal is to post the proposed BAL-001-TRE-01 regional standard for ballot in June 2010. A workshop to explain and discuss details of the proposed standard will be held after the RSC meeting on March 8th.

RSC Update

The RSC slate for 2010 (until separation from ERCOT) has been finalized and is available below. At their January meeting, the RSC re-elected Rick Keetch from NRG/Reliant Energy as the Chair and elected Frank Owens from Texas Municipal Power Agency as the Vice-chair.

[View the 2010 Reliability Standards Committee Members.](#)

Texas RE Would Like to Welcome the Following People

Bill Beaver has accepted the position of Texas RE CIP Compliance Analyst, Sr. Bill has over 9 years of experience and has a B.S. in Business Administration from Wheeling Jesuit University and a M.B.A. from Wayne State University. Prior to joining Texas RE, he worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

To contact Mr. Beaver please email him at cybersec@teaxsre.org.

Don Jones has accepted the position of Texas RE Manager, Reliability Standards. Don has over 25 years of experience and has both a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. Don served as an Advisor to PUCT Commissioner Julie Parsley and has been actively involved in the ERCOT electric power market and stakeholder activities for several years.

To contact Mr. Jones please email him at rsm@texasre.org.

Curtis Crews has accepted the position of Texas RE Senior Regional Planning Engineer. Curtis has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University, and is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas. Curtis has extensive experience in the ERCOT Region with operations, network modeling, system and control engineering areas. Curtis has worked at electric utilities, private industry and ERCOT ISO.

Texas Regional Entity Is Now Hiring

[To view our current openings and learn more about working for Texas RE, please visit our Web site.](#)

Please submit feedback, comments, and suggestions to information@texasre.org or contact Lindley Ellisor at (512) 225-7022. If you are receiving email from a distribution list from which you no longer wish to receive communications, please follow this link in order to unsubscribe from this list: <http://lists.ercot.com>. All external links within this newsletter are provided for your convenience. URLs are subject to change.